

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 AID-20 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-11 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07 IGA-02

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----- 112925

R 2'1911Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, JM

SUBJECT: OPERATION BUCCANEER - HELICOPTERS

REF: KINGSTON 2147

1. ANALYSIS IN REFTTEL VERY USEFUL TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES
IN REACHING DECISION ON QUESTION OF SUPPLYING HELICOPTERS
TO JAMAICA ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO ASSIST GOJ IN CARRYING OUT
MARIHUANA ERADICATION AS PART OF OPERATION BUCCANEER.

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LAINCC HAS NOW REACHED FAVORABLE DECISION, AS SET FORTH IN
DETAIL FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

2. FOUR HELICOPTERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO DEA FOR SIX
MONTHS FOR USE IN JAMAICA. HELICOPTERS WILL BE PROVIDED
WITH A SIX MONTHS INVENTORY OF SPARE PARTS, AND DEA
PILOTS WILL HAVE FAMILIARIZATION RIDES IN THE HELICOPTERS
PRIOR TO REPORTING TO JAMAICA.

3. DEA WILL BE USG AGENCY WITH OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR HELICOPTERS IN JAMAICA. DEA WILL ALSO BE RESPONSIB-
LE FOR NEGOTIATING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH RELIABLE US
FIRM WITH RESPECT TO THESE HELICOPTERS FOR MAXIMUM 180 DAY
PERIOD, AND FOR NEGOTIATING CASUALTY INSURANCE CONTRACT
COVERING DEA LIABILITY IN CASE OF LOSS OR MAJOR DAMAGE TO
THESE HELICOPTERS.

4. DEA WILL ALSO ARRANGE FOR AIR SHIPMENT OF THESE HELI-
COPTERS TO JAMAICA AND RETURN, INCLUDING NECESSARY

DISASSEMBLY FOR SUCH SHIPMENT AND REASSEMBLY, AND PAINTING
AND REPAINTING. THIS WILL REHAB TO CONDITION IN WHICH
HELICOPTERS RECEIVED.

5. HELICOPTER-RELATED FUNDING. AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$394,000 FROM STATE'S NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE FUNDS HAS BEEN
APPROVED FOR COSTS INVOLVED IN MAKING THESE FOUR HELI-
COPTERS AVAILABLE. BREAKDOWN FOLLOWS: CASUALTY INSURANCE
PREMIUM \$67,000; MAINTENANCE CONTRACT INCLUDING REHAB
\$100,000; EXPENDABLE SPARES, NOT INCLUDING ENGINES OR MAJOR
ITEMS \$35,000; SPARE ENGINE AND OTHER MAJOR SPARES \$100,000;
DISASSEMBLY AND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM JAMAICA \$80,000;
PAINTING AND REPAINTING \$12,000. THESE FUNDS WILL BE TRAN-
FERRED IN WASHINGTON TO DEA. UNUSED SPARES WILL BE RETURN-
ED AND AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THIS PURPOSE WILL BE ADJUSTED
ACCORDINGLY.

6. LIABILITY FOR THIRD PARTY DAMAGES. DECISION TO PROCEED
WITH HELICOPTER LOAN FOR USE IN JAMAICA IS BASED ON UNDER-
STANDING WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMALLY THAT GOJ PREPARED TO
ASSURE USG THAT GOJ WILL HOLD USG HARMLESS FROM ALL CLAIMS
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AND LIABILITY WHICH MAY ARISE FROM THE OPERATION OF THESE
HELICOPTERS. EMBASSY KINGSTON IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM THIS
UNDERSTANDING WITH GOJ AND FORMALIZE IT IN WRITING PRIOR TO
ACTUAL ARRIVAL HELICOPTERS IN COUNTRY.

7. OTHER OPERATIONAL UNDERSTANDINGS. THESE HELICOPTERS
WILL BE OPERATED BY DEA PILOTS AT ALL TIMES. NO RPT NO

HERBICIDE SPRAY EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED ON THEM. THEY WILL BE USED TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT FEASIBLE FOR GENERAL SERVICE MISSIONS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE BE PERFORMED BY GOJ HELICOPTERS (E.G. SAR, LOGISTIC SUPPORT, MEDEVAC, READY REACTION FORCE TRANSPORT, COMMAND AND CONTROL) IN ORDER TO RELEASE GOJ HELICOPTERS FOR DIRECT EMPLOYMENT IN MARIHUANA ERADICATION ACTIVITIES. ANY USE OF THESE USG-OWNED HELICOPTERS IN TROOP LIFT OR OTHER ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY RELATED TO ERADICATION EFFORT (WHEN GOJ HELICOPTER DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE FOR EXAMPLE, IS TO BEMONITORED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND REPORTED IMMEDIATELY TO WASHINGTON.

8. FUEL. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOJ PREPARED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY FUEL AND OTHER CONSUMABLES AT NO COST TO USG FOR OPERATION THESE FOUR HELICOPTERS DURING ESTIMATED 120 DAYS MAXIMUM DEPLOYMENT. EMBASSY REQUESTED CONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING.

9. AGREEMENT WITH GOJ SETTING FORTH ARRANGEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS DESCRIBED ABOVE WOULD BE IN FORM OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND (WE ASSUME) MINISTER MATALON. DRAFT LETTER CONSTITUTING USG PROPOSAL WILL BE FORWARDED ASAP. KISSINGER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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